

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )  
Plaintiff, )  
v. ) No. 4:23-CR-00516-MTS  
DANIEL E. PITTS, )  
Defendant. )

## **GUILTY-PLEA AGREEMENT**

Come now the parties and hereby agree, as follows:

**1. PARTIES:**

The parties are the defendant Daniel E. Pitts, represented by defense counsel Bradley Swinney, and the United States of America, represented by the Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri. This agreement does not, and is not intended to, bind any governmental office or agency other than the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri. The Court is neither a party to nor bound by this agreement.

## **2. GUILTY PLEA:**

A. **The Plea:** Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(A) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, in exchange for the Defendant's voluntary plea of guilty to Count One of the Indictment, the United States agrees that no further federal prosecution will be brought in this District relative to Defendant's violations of federal law, known to the United States at this time, arising out of the events set forth in the Indictment.

**B. The Sentence:** The parties agree that the recommendations contained herein fairly and accurately set forth some guidelines that may be applicable to this case. In addition, the parties

agree that the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Total Offense Level analysis agreed to by the parties herein is the result of negotiation and led, in part, to the guilty plea. **The Government further agrees to recommend a sentence not to exceed 15 months of imprisonment. The parties further agree that Defendant will be free to recommend whatever sentence Defendant deems appropriate.**

**3. ELEMENTS:**

As to Count One, the Defendant admits to knowingly violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 751(a), and admits there is a factual basis for the plea and further fully understands that the elements of the crime are:

- (i) The Defendant was confined in Dismas House;
- (ii) the confinement was by virtue of a judgment and commitment of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri upon the felony conviction in Case No. 4:20-cr-00616-MTS;
- (iii) The Defendant failed to return to Dismas House without authorization; and
- (iv) in so doing, Defendant knew that he was leaving custody without authorization.

**4. FACTS:**

The parties agree that the facts in this case are as follows and that the United States would prove these facts beyond a reasonable doubt if the case were to go to trial. These facts may be considered as relevant conduct pursuant to Section 1B1.3:

Following his September 27, 2022, conviction in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri case number 4:20-cr-00616-MTS, Defendant was sentenced to a 21-month term of imprisonment. As a result of that conviction and since September 2022 leading up to September 5, 2023, Defendant was in the custody of the Attorney General of the United

States.

As of September 5, 2023, Defendant was residing in a residential reentry center operated by the Bureau of Prisons, located within the Eastern District of Missouri, specifically the Dismas House.

On September 5, 2023, at approximately 12:57 p.m., Defendant approached the front desk of the residential reentry center with a bag. Rather than sign out and inform the BOP staff of Defendant's whereabouts, Defendant left the facility without BOP authorization.

Defendant had not returned to the facility until at least September 24, 2023, as he was required to do. Consequently, Defendant knew that he was leaving the custody of the Bureau of Prisons without authorization.

**5. STATUTORY PENALTIES:**

Defendant fully understands that the maximum possible penalty provided by law for the crime to which Defendant is pleading guilty is imprisonment of not more than five years, a fine of not more than \$250,000, or both such imprisonment and fine. The Court shall also impose a period of supervised release of not more than three years.

**6. U.S. SENTENCING GUIDELINES: 2021 MANUAL**

Defendant understands that this offense is affected by the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the actual sentencing range is determined by both the Total Offense Level and the Criminal History Category. The parties agree that the following are the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Total Offense Level provisions that apply.

**A. Chapter 2 Offense Conduct:**

i. **Base Offense Level:** The parties agree that the Base Offense Level is 13, as found in Section 2P1.1(a)(1).

ii. **Specific Offense Characteristics:** The parties agree that the following Specific Offense Characteristics apply: A four-level decrease pursuant to 2P1.1(b)(3) because Defendant escaped from the non-secured custody of a halfway house and there is insufficient evidence to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that Defendant committed a federal, state, or local offense punishable by a term of imprisonment of one year or more.

**B. Chapter 3 Adjustments:**

i. **Acceptance of Responsibility:** The parties recommend that two levels should be deducted pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1(a) because Defendant has clearly demonstrated acceptance of responsibility. If the deduction pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1(a) is applied, and if Defendant is otherwise eligible, then the United States moves to deduct one additional level pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1(b)(2), because Defendant timely notified authorities of the intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting the United States to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the Court to allocate its resources efficiently.

The parties agree that if Defendant does not abide by all of the agreements made within this document, Defendant's failure to comply is grounds for the loss of acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1. The parties further agree that Defendant's eligibility for a reduction pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1 is based upon the information known at the present time and that any actions of Defendant which occur or which become known to the United States subsequent to this agreement and are inconsistent with Defendant's acceptance of responsibility including, but not limited to criminal conduct, are grounds for the loss of acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section

3E1.1. In any event, the parties agree that all of the remaining provisions of this agreement remain valid and in full force and effect.

C. **Estimated Total Offense Level:** The parties agree that the estimated Total Offense Level for Count One is 7.

D. **Criminal History:** The determination of Defendant's Criminal History Category shall be left to the Court. Either party may challenge, before and at sentencing, the finding of the Presentence Report as to Defendant's criminal history and the applicable category. Defendant's criminal history is known to Defendant and is substantially available in the Pretrial Services Report.

E. **Effect of Parties' U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Analysis:** The parties agree that the Court is not bound by the Guidelines analysis agreed to herein. The parties may not have foreseen all applicable Guidelines. The Court may, in its discretion, apply or not apply any Guideline despite the agreement herein and the parties shall not be permitted to withdraw from the plea agreement. The Government recognizes it is bound by the specific agreements made herein, but reserves the right to answer any questions the U.S. Probation Office or the Court might have related to sentencing or present evidence at the Court's request.

7. **WAIVER OF APPEAL AND POST-CONVICTION RIGHTS:**

A. **Appeal:** Defendant has been fully apprised by defense counsel of Defendant's rights concerning appeal and fully understands the right to appeal the sentence under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742.

i. **Non-Sentencing Issues:** The parties waive all rights to appeal all non-jurisdictional, non-sentencing issues, including, but not limited to, any issues relating to pretrial

motions, discovery and the guilty plea, the constitutionality of the statute(s) to which Defendant is pleading guilty and whether Defendant's conduct falls within the scope of the statute(s).

ii. **Sentencing Issues:** In the event the Court accepts the plea, accepts the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Total Offense Level agreed to herein, and, after determining the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range, sentences Defendant within or below that range, then, as part of this agreement, Defendant hereby waives all rights to appeal all sentencing issues other than Criminal History, but only if it affects the Base Offense Level or Criminal History Category. Similarly, the Government hereby waives all rights to appeal all sentencing issues other than Criminal History, provided the Court accepts the plea, the agreed Total Offense Level and sentences Defendant within or above that range.

B. **Habeas Corpus:** Defendant agrees to waive all rights to contest the conviction or sentence in any post-conviction proceeding, including one pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255, except for claims of prosecutorial misconduct or ineffective assistance of counsel.

C. **Right to Records:** Defendant waives all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 522, or the Privacy Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552(a).

8. **OTHER:**

A. **Disclosures Required by the United States Probation Office:** Defendant agrees to truthfully complete and sign forms as required by the United States Probation Office prior to sentencing and consents to the release of these forms and any supporting documentation by the United States Probation Office to the United States.

B. **Civil or Administrative Actions not Barred; Effect on Other Governmental Agencies:** Nothing contained herein limits the rights and authority of the United States to take any civil, tax, immigration/deportation or administrative action against Defendant.

C. **Supervised Release:** Pursuant to any supervised release term, the Court will impose standard conditions upon Defendant and may impose special conditions related to the crime defendant committed. These conditions will be restrictions on Defendant to which Defendant will be required to adhere. Violation of the conditions of supervised release resulting in revocation may require Defendant to serve a term of imprisonment equal to the length of the term of supervised release, but not greater than the term set forth in Title 18, United States Code, Section 3583(e)(3), without credit for the time served after release. Defendant understands that parole has been abolished.

D. **Mandatory Special Assessment:** Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3013, the Court is required to impose a mandatory special assessment of \$100 per count for a total of \$100, which Defendant agrees to pay at the time of sentencing. Money paid by Defendant toward any restitution or fine imposed by the Court shall be first used to pay any unpaid mandatory special assessment.

E. **Fines and Costs of Incarceration and Supervision:** The Court may impose a fine, costs of incarceration, and costs of supervision. Defendant agrees that any fine imposed by the Court will be due and payable immediately.

F. **Forfeiture:** Defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives any right, title, and interest in all items seized by law enforcement officials during the course of their investigation, whether or not they are subject to forfeiture, and agrees not to contest the vesting of title of such items in the United States. Defendant agrees to abandon Defendant's interest in all seized items and further agrees that said items may be disposed of or destroyed by law enforcement officials in any manner without further notice. By abandoning these items, Defendant waives any future rights to receive additional notice, a valuation of the items, or the opportunity to submit a claim to contest the disposition or destruction of the items that may exist under any policies or procedures of the seizing agency(ies).

**9. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND WAIVER OF DEFENDANT'S RIGHTS:**

In pleading guilty, Defendant acknowledges, fully understands and hereby waives his rights, including but not limited to: the right to plead not guilty to the charges; the right to be tried by a jury in a public and speedy trial; the right to file pretrial motions, including motions to suppress or exclude evidence; the right at such trial to a presumption of innocence; the right to require the Government to prove the elements of the offenses charged against Defendant beyond a reasonable doubt; the right not to testify; the right not to present any evidence; the right to be protected from compelled self-incrimination; the right at trial to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses; the right to testify and present evidence and the right to compel the attendance of witnesses. Defendant further understands that by this guilty plea, Defendant expressly waives all the rights set forth in this paragraph.

Defendant fully understands that Defendant has the right to be represented by counsel, and if necessary, to have the Court appoint counsel at trial and at every other stage of the proceeding. Defendant's counsel has explained these rights and the consequences of the waiver of these rights. Defendant fully understands that, as a result of the guilty plea, no trial will, in fact, occur and that the only action remaining to be taken in this case is the imposition of the sentence.

Defendant is fully satisfied with the representation received from defense counsel. Defendant has reviewed the Government's evidence and discussed the Government's case and all possible defenses and defense witnesses with defense counsel. Defense counsel has completely and satisfactorily explored all areas which Defendant has requested relative to the Government's case and any defenses.

**10. VOLUNTARY NATURE OF THE GUILTY PLEA AND PLEA AGREEMENT:**

This document constitutes the entire agreement between Defendant and the Government, and no other promises or inducements have been made, directly or indirectly, by any agent of the Government, including any Department of Justice attorney, concerning any plea to be entered in this case. In addition, the defendant states that no person has, directly or indirectly, threatened or coerced Defendant to do or refrain from doing anything in connection with any aspect of this case, including entering a plea of guilty.

Defendant acknowledges having voluntarily entered into both the plea agreement and the guilty plea. Defendant further acknowledges that this guilty plea is made of Defendant's own free will and that Defendant is, in fact, guilty.

**11. CONSEQUENCES OF POST-PLEA MISCONDUCT:**

After pleading guilty and before sentencing, if Defendant commits any crime, other than minor traffic offenses, violates any conditions of release that results in revocation, violates any

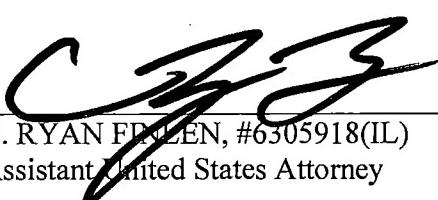
term of this guilty-plea agreement, intentionally provides misleading, incomplete or untruthful information to the U.S. Probation Office or fails to appear for sentencing, the United States, at its option, may be released from its obligations under this agreement. The United States may also, in its discretion, proceed with this agreement and may advocate for any sentencing position supported by the facts, including but not limited to obstruction of justice and denial of acceptance of responsibility.

**12. NO RIGHT TO WITHDRAW GUILTY PLEA:**

Pursuant to Rule 11(c) and (d), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Defendant understands that there will be no right to withdraw the plea entered under this agreement, except where the Court rejects those portions of the plea agreement which deal with charges the Government agrees to dismiss or not to bring.

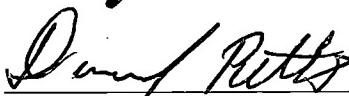
2/29/2024

Date

  
C. RYAN FINLEN, #6305918(IL)  
Assistant United States Attorney

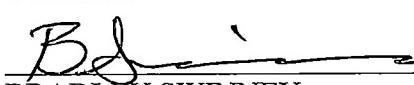
2/29/2024

Date

  
DANIEL E. PITTS  
Defendant

2/29/24

Date

  
BRADLEY SWINNEY  
Attorney for Defendant